

**Weekly Status and Information Report:
Week of September 18 - September 22, 2006**

1. Takoma Metro Public Hearing: The WMATA Board is holding a public hearing on the proposed development of townhouses and changes to transportation facilities at the Takoma Metro on October 11th at 6 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church, 7005 Piney Branch Rd. NW, Washington, DC. For more information, including how to register to testify, go to the City's web page at www.takomaparkmd.gov. The topic will be discussed at the Takoma Park City Council meetings of September 25 and October 3. *(Community and Government Liaison)*

2. 24-Hour ATM Available: Many people are not aware of Takoma Park's safest ATM. This machine is located in the Police Department Lobby of the Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. The lobby is open 24-hours *per day, seven days per week*. *Simply enter from the front parking lot!* *(Community and Government Liaison)*

3. Street Restoration: This week, the City contractor (VMP) began replacement of damaged curb, gutter, sidewalk and driveway aprons on sections of the New Hampshire Service Road (Auburn Avenue to Larch Avenue & Prince Georges Avenue past Belford Place to the dead-end), as well as Winchester Avenue (Ward 2 and 3. Next week, they are scheduled to begin Willow Avenue (Ward 1). *(Public Works)*

4. Affordable Housing - Public Housing Waiting List Will Be Opened (City-wide): The Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC) has announced that it is opening its waiting list for public housing from September 25th through October 6th. Applications will be available in all public libraries, at county resource service centers, and on line at www.hocmc.org starting September 25th. The County has approximately 1,550 units that are in various public housing properties owned by Montgomery County, 99% of which are currently occupied. Last month, the Housing Voucher Program's waiting list was opened and over 17,800 people applied. For both programs, HOC representatives state that there will be a lottery held at some future date to select applicants for the programs. The date of the lottery has not been determined. Income ceilings for applicants are \$31,600 for a single resident, \$36,100 for a family of two, and \$40,650 for a family of three. *(Housing and Community Development)*

5. 2006 Governor's Workforce Housing Conference: Housing and Community Development staff Sara Daines and Linda Walker attended the Governor's Workforce Housing Conference, which was held on September 21st in Baltimore. Work session topics included Low Interest Tax Credit Compliance, The Nuts and Bolts of Financing Rental Housing with DHCD, and Supply and Demand Workforce Housing Outlook in Maryland. *(Housing and Community Development)*

6. Landlord-Tenant Affairs (Ward 2): Tenants residing at 7423, 7425, and 7427 Aspen Court have been served with a two-month notice to vacate. There are currently nine tenants residing in this 16-unit rental property. The attorney representing Joseph McMahon, owner of the property, states that the owner is planning significant repair work that necessitates the vacation of the building. After further discussion with County staff, it has been determined that the notice to vacate is not valid as it violates the County's Tenant Displacement Law. The Displacement Law requires four month's notice to the tenants and the offering of two month's rent as compensation for relocation costs. Staff is following up with the landlord' attorney to ensure compliance. The tenants have a right to file a complaint with the County if a corrected notice is not received. *(Housing and Community Development)*

7. Tenant Opportunity to Purchase (Ward 6): A meeting was held at Hampshire Towers on September 20th to explain to senior and handicapped tenants how they may qualify under Maryland's Condominium Conversion Act and Montgomery County's Condominium Law to remain as tenants in the building that is being converted to a condominium (7333 New Hampshire Avenue.). Approximately 25 tenants attended the meeting. Juin Killingsworth from Montgomery County's Office on Landlord-Tenant Affairs led the discussion and answered many questions that the attendees had about their rights. Those not able to attend the meeting should contact Linda Walker at 301.891.7222 for further information. *(Housing and Community Development)*

8. Landlord Certification Seminar (City-wide): The September 21st Landlord Certification Seminar was well attended with 14 landlords and property agents, each responsible for the operation of one to two hundred rental units, in attendance. The 90-minute program covered pertinent information on rental housing licensing, Code inspections, common code enforcement issues, rent stabilization, affordable housing concerns, and landlord tenant relations. Receipt of a Certificate for attending the seminar validates the participant for three years for any rental units owned or managed in the City. *(Housing and Community Development)*

9. Code Enforcement Activities (Ward 6): An inspection of 39 properties along Wildwood Drive resulted in nine properties being issued Notices of Violation for Property Maintenance Code violations, such as overgrowth of vegetation, peeling paint, falling fences, and accumulation of trash and debris. The property owners are required to correct or abate the identified violations within one to four weeks of the notice. Failure to address the violations in a timely manner will result in the issuance of a citation. *(Housing and Community Development)*

10. Metropolitan Branch Trail (Ward 1): The Montgomery County Conservation Corp finished all major landscaping and tree planting on the Metropolitan Branch Trail this week. Minor improvements to gardens along the trail are scheduled for next spring. *(Housing and Community Development)*

11. International Economic Development Council: Associate Planner David Suls attended the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) Annual Conference from September 18th to 20th. The Conference covered leading economic development strategies, including public-private financing, growing the arts and culture industry, and small business initiatives. *(Housing and Community Development)*

12. New Programs: The Afternoon Addition started its Art program and Dance Program this week. The kids had a really great time with the activities and are looking forward to next week. *(Recreation)*

13. "Touch a Truck:" The Public Works and Recreation Department collaborated to sponsor the Touch A Truck event on Sunday, September 17th from 1-3. Over 100 people attend the event. Each child received a yellow construction hat. On display and demonstrated were the loader, bobcat, trash truck, recycling truck, dump truck, leaf vacuum, fire truck, police car, and street sweeper. Parent and kids alike enjoyed climbing on and sitting in the trucks. *(Recreation)*

14. Police Officer Training: Two patrol officers attended in-service training at the PG Municipal Police Academy this week. Several officers attended NCIC training, required to maintain access to the national computer database. *(Police)*

15. Temporary Staff Changes: Cpl. Rick Cannatella has been transferred on a 90-day temporary basis to the Support Services Division as a general investigator. *(Police)*

16. COP Team: Cpl. Smith attended the Maryland International Corridor CSAFE HEAT team meeting with officers from other jurisdictions and parole and probation. She also assisted at the Takoma Park Middle School with students going to the environmental education program. Sgt. Gilbert continues to work with the Blair High School football team. *(Police)*

17. Police Relocation: The Operations Division is scheduled to move out of the temporary trailers and reoccupy their space in the old section of the department on the Public Safety Plaza level. *(Police)*

18. Traffic Enforcement: Traffic enforcement included more than 90 traffic stops, with 83% ending with some type of citation. *(Police)*